2017 Winter Newsletter

2017 Year in Review

In May, the 40th Annual IACA Conference was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the Westin Nova Scotian, Immediate Past President Hayley Clarke and her team from Service Nova Scotia hosted the spectacular conference.

Hayley, along with the IACA Board of Directors and Section Chairs, brought relevant session topics ranging from identity management and call center excellence to managing change and UCC 201.

Tareq Hadhad, an immigrant from Syria, told the moving story of his family’s prosperous journey from Syria to Nova Scotia and the creation of their family company, Peace by Chocolate.

Oh, and don’t forget that wonderful trip to Peggy’s Cove!

In case you missed the conference or want to look back, most of the materials have been posted on the website.

The evenings in Halifax were wonderful. We experienced the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, a lobster dinner at Murphy’s on The Cable Wharf, a fantastic celebration of 40 years, and to end the conference an evening at Alexander Keith’s Brewery!

We learned a lot, networked, and fun was had by all.

IACA charted a course for the past 40 years, and now we’re ready to fly into the future!

IACA’s 40th Birthday

IACA celebrated its 40th conference in Halifax and will be now celebrating its 40th birthday in North Carolina.

The founding jurisdictions of IACA, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Oregon filed the Articles of Incorporation on April 19, 1978 giving birth to IACA, a Louisiana Nonprofit Corporation.

Happy Birthday IACA!! You continue to engage with, share with, learn from, and support others who “do what we do!”
Flying Into the Future in Charlotte, NC

Planning for the 41st Annual IACA Conference began in the Fall of 2016. The date and location are now set and the agenda is being developed.

A lot of discussion goes into planning the conference content, and the Board welcomes suggestions for hot topics you want to know more about.

Discussions this year have centered on data. We, as registries, collect data and make it available to the public. A number of general session topics being considered are: a Data 101 session covering why we collect the data, who uses the data and what do they do with it; PCI compliance; data analytics, using real data; protecting data, cybersecurity; the financial impact of the data we collect; as well as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

General sessions not focused on data may include, project management for the non-project manager, the IACA Annual Report of Jurisdictions, and the International Business Registers Survey and Report.

Section topics may include sovereign citizens, going electronic only, partnership filings, legislative updates, customer service, remote notarization and the world of non-UCC filings. Of course the Roll Call on Monday morning, a session which helps to get everyone taking notice of what is going on in your jurisdiction and helps to identify who you need to network with regarding your concerns, Merit Awards, and jurisdictional presentations will not be overlooked in the discussions.

Coming Attractions for the 2018 IACA Conference will be e-mailed after the first of the year.

Moons ago, IACA used to have a free night on Wednesday evening. The post conference surveys indicated you want that back. We listened. So this year, Wednesday will be a free night. There will be ideas on what is available in Charlotte posted on the website. I look forward to sharing North Carolina with you in May as we fly into the future!

Conference Registration will be opening in January.

New and Retiring Board Members

When you become a member of IACA, you are not only joining an association of your peers, you are joining a family of lifetime friends. We say so long for now to a few and we welcome the new!

Members who left the board in 2017 are:

Myron Pawlowski, Past President — Manitoba. Myron is currently very busy as a Corporate Records Consultant for Taylor McCaffrey LLP and was appointed by the government of Manitoba to the board of the Deposit Guarantee Corporation of Manitoba.

Celia Johnston — Germany. Celia is on maternity leave enjoying quality time with baby Hannah who arrived in July, but she won’t be dealing with Registry-related responsibilities upon her return.

Katie Zvolanek, Past Section Chair — Ohio. Katie is currently the Director of Campaign Finance & Administrative Counsel at the Ohio Secretary of State.

Members joining the IACA Board in 2017 are:

April Wright, Delaware — First Alternate Corporations Administrator Secretary of State — Division of Corporations

Marissa Soto-Ortiz, Massachusetts — Second Alternate. Assistant Director, Corporations Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Patricia Viverto, Arizona — BOS Chair Director of Business Services Office of the Secretary of State

Rayne Sherman, Michigan — STS Chair Analyst, Direct Services Section Department of State

Lesley Leuenotte — Missouri. Lesley is currently a Team Lead/IT Project Manager at OA-ITSD.

Farewell and Hello!

A farewell is necessary before we can meet again, and meeting again, after moments or a lifetime is certain for those who are friends”
Liaison Activities

Association Activities

IACA Board members were invited to attend and did participate in the NASS, CRF, ECRF, and ASORLAC annual conferences by providing an update to IACA’s activities as well as closing remarks at conferences. Board members are also members of the Working Group for the International Business Registers Survey and Report.

International Business Registers Working Group Belgrade, Serbia, January 16-20, 2017 hosted by the Serbian Business Registers Agency

This meeting was held to finalize the Survey and Report for distribution in March.

A huge portion of the trip was dedicated to drafting The Journey 2007-2016, which is a special International Business Registers Report, discussing the growth not only of the survey but also showing where the survey and report may be heading for the future.

13th Annual Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) Hong Kong March 6-10, 2017

The conference included a tour of the Company Register and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The theme for the conference was “Corporate Registries—Challenges and Opportunities, Today and Tomorrow.”

International Business Registers Survey

As you may recall, a letter agreement was entered into in 2014 among the European Commerce Registers Forum (ECRF), the Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) and the Association of Registrars of Latin America and the Caribbean (ASORLAC) and IACA to support the International Business Registers Survey. The report provides valuable information on trends in legislation, policy and technology in the business registry world.

This most recent report is a special edition entitled Connecting the World of Registries: The Journey 2007-2016. It is based primarily on the trends in data gathered from respondents between 2007 and 2015. It also includes several case studies, each entitled “Our Digital Journey” from jurisdictions around the world (including the journeys of Massachusetts and Quebec), as well as a case study on Beneficial Ownership by our colleagues in the UK who launched the first Beneficial Ownership register in June 2016. The report was presented at the CRF Conference in Hong Kong in March, the IACA Conference in Nova Scotia in May, the ECRF Conference in Lithuania in June and the ASORLAC Conference in the Dominican Republic in November. A copy this report (and others) is available on the IACA website.

The drafting of the report based on the 2016 data is presently underway. The survey period was open between February and July rather than December-February which has been the standard. The change in dates was intentional in an effort to ensure conference participants were aware of the existence of the survey, and to enable them to ask questions of the survey working group. The experiment proved to be a success in that we have 31 respondents from jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, out of the 98 participants in total. This is our highest participation rate ever! A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to participate. The new report will be available in time for next year’s business registry conferences.

By Hayley Clarke and Marissa Soto-Ortiz
Remote Notarization

Technological advances and process improvements are rapidly changing the way business is conducted. The Notary Public industry is no different.

The requirement that a valid notarial act include the physical appearance of the signer is still the bedrock of a notarial act involving paper-based documents. However, with solution providers developing processes that provide safeguards and security, the advent of the remote, or online, notarial act is gaining acceptance.

Employing audio/visual technology and electronic notarization, the remote/online notarial act can be conducted without the notary and signer sharing the same physical space. Through audio/visual evidence, the notary can determine the signer’s identity and witness the affixation of the signer’s signature.

As a relatively new process, notary administrators and regulators are moving ahead with development of standards and model legislation. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) and the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) are leveraging resources to get out front of the emerging remote/online notarial process.

As IACA has many members who are involved in notary administration for their jurisdictions, remote/online notarization will be a topic of discussion during the 41st Annual IACA Conference, May 6-10, 2018, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

By Mike Smith

Jurisdictional Showcase

Each annual conference has time set aside for jurisdictions to present their jurisdiction’s initiatives. These jurisdictions may or may not have applied for a merit award.

The four presentations at the 2017 IACA Conference were:

Colorado: Operations Support Team
Georgia: ECORP.SOS.GA.GOV—The New Corporations Registration System.
European Initiatives on Beneficial Ownership Registers
Ohio: Innovations & Enhancements In A New Online UCC Filing Portal

As planning continues for the May 2018 conference, what would you want to showcase to your peers? What are you doing that may benefit other jurisdictions?

Consider showcasing your initiative, whether it be technology or a new improved process. Tell us how you identified the need and moved through completion of the project.

Merit Awards

One of the great benefits of our organization is the opportunity to learn from others. An extraordinary example of this is the IACA Merit Awards. Each year IACA recognizes those jurisdictions who have implemented an innovative change.

The 2017 Merit Award Winners are:

- INBiz—Indiana
- The Interconnection of Jersey’s Enhanced Centralized Registry of Beneficial Ownership & Control—Jersey
- Ohio’s Call Center Solution - Ohio.

The 2018 Merit Award applications outlining the qualifications and judging criteria will be distributed after the first of the year. Will you applying this year?
Corporate Registers Worldwide

European Commerce Registers’ Forum (ECRF)
The European Commerce Registers’ Forum is a non-profit, self-financing interest organization for co-operation in Europe. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration and to facilitate exchange of information and practice among European business register organizations.

The 2018 conference is to be held in Gibraltar in June.

Corporate Registers Forum (CRF)
The aim of the Corporate Registers Forum is to provide delegates with the opportunity to review the latest developments in corporate business registers internationally and exchange experiences and information on the present and future operation of corporate business registration systems.

The 14th Annual CRF Conference will be held 21-25 May, 2018 in Botswana. The conference will be hosted by the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority of Botswana.

The Association of Latin American and the Caribbean Registrars (ASORLAC)
The Association of Latin American and the Caribbean Registrars (ASORLAC) is a non-profit organization that supports regional integration and strengthens the competitiveness of the business sector in Latin American and the Caribbean countries, promoting best practices in the public registry administration.

The 2018 conference will be held in Honduras in late 2018. Actual dates to be announced.

IACA Annual Report of Jurisdictions

This year due to the incredible decrease seen over the last few years, IACA’s Board of Directors decided to create a committee to look into the Annual Report of Jurisdictions.

Marissa Soto-Ortiz, 2nd Alternate, along with Alison DeSantis, Past President, Mike Powell, Treasurer, Cyndi Festa (Dun & Bradstreet), Dennis Haskins (Illinois), Akylbek Masydykov (Corporations Canada), and Shawnzia Thomas (Georgia) are active participants in this new committee.

In addition to reviewing reasons for the decrease in responses over the years, we hope to examine the survey itself, with possible changes to the questions. Additionally, we may look into how the information is presented to the membership, the value it provides, and how we can make it more accessible to all.

They will be looking for suggestions from the membership during this year’s IACA Conference for ways in which the Annual Report of Jurisdictions may be improved and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Volunteer for the Board

Being an IACA board member is work and may take a bit of time, but it is also fun and rewarding. You make lifetime friends not only within IACA, but also with the other worldwide registry associations and IACA’s partners.

You probably have already read about those board members leaving this year. Each of those who left created a need we need to fill. In addition, each year the President moves up, creating a vacancy on the board.

The President-Elect is required to provide a full slate of officers at the annual Conference.

Currently there is one position which needs to be filled. It is the Secured Transaction Section (STS) Vice-Chair position. Rayne Sherman is the STS Chair and would welcome someone to help with the conference this May.

If you are interested in serving on the IACA board in the capacity of the STS—Vice Chair you may contact Rayne directly at (517) 322-5264 or me at 919-814-5390.

If you want to be nominated in May to the Board as the First Alternate, please contact Carla Bonaventure at 225-925-4716.
Warm Winter Greetings and Best Wishes

As I look back on this year, what comes to mind is that IACA, over the past 12 years, has provided me with opportunities for professional and personal growth, as well as establishing friendships and being a part of an organization working towards the betterment of business and secured transaction registries.

IACA would not have been able to provide these opportunities without its members and sponsors. My warmest wishes to IACA members and the corporate sponsors listed below for a wonderful 2018!

- Cheri Myers, President

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Membership Dues
Annual membership is now open for 2018:

$300 (U.S. Dollars) per Member for U.S. and Canadian government administrators; and

$250 (U.S. Dollars) per Member for jurisdictions of government agencies outside the U.S. and Canada.

Thank You to the 2017 IACA Corporate Sponsors

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